

Research article

# Examining the Relationship between Social Activism and Social Responsibility of Women in Preventing Domestic Violence: A Case Study of Panj Tan area of Mashhad Province, Iran

Ramazan Ahmadi<sup>1\*</sup>, Hakima Yagoubi<sup>2</sup>, Mahdia Hussaini<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Social Sciences, Bamyan University, Afghanistan

<sup>2</sup> Mashhad Ferdowsi University, Iran

<sup>3</sup> D. D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioral Studies, Goa University, India

\* Correspondence: [ramazan.abmadi230@gmail.com](mailto:ramazan.abmadi230@gmail.com)

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**Abstract:** Domestic violence against women is an undesirable phenomenon occurring in all societies. Although the forms and manifestations of domestic violence vary across different cultures, this type of violence, encompassing physical, psychological, financial, and sexual dimensions, inflicts serious harm upon women. The aim of this research is to examine the relationship between social activism and social responsibility of women in preventing domestic violence. The social activism and social responsibility of women in preventing domestic violence are complex and multifaceted. These two concepts mutually influence each other in two ways: on one hand, society and culture, as influencing factors, shape the roles, expectations, and values of the community, impacting individuals' behaviors and decision-making; on the other hand, social responsibility involves a commitment to fulfilling social and ethical duties that assist individuals and society in safeguarding individuals' rights and preventing social harm. This research, conducted through a survey and in a descriptive and analytical manner, provides important findings from statistical analyses in the areas of domestic violence, social interaction, and responsibility. The results indicate a significant and inverse relationship between domestic violence and the variables of social interaction and responsibility. In other words, as social interaction and responsibility increase, the level of domestic violence decreases.

**Keywords:** domestic violence; responsibility; social activism; women's rights; prevention of domestic violence.

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## 1. Introduction

Violence against women in the family is the most common form of violence, often perpetrated by close family members such as husbands (Amiri, 2019). Its prevalence varies in different parts of the world. It is estimated that violence exists in more than half of the families, with one in four women experiencing violence. Almost one-third of women worldwide have experienced violence at least once (Amiri, 2019). To prevent and control this problem, it is essential to address the root causes. In the initial stage, raising awareness and changing the public attitude towards the real position and situation of women in society, eliminating discrimination at various stages of life, improving literacy levels, promoting employment, and consequently, fighting poverty are necessary.

Since women's education is one of the factors and subsets of social interaction for women, increasing women's higher education reduces domestic violence. Women with university education have greater ability to control domestic violence. This aspect is crucial for resolving family conflicts without creating tension and violence. Additionally, the promotion of women's education enhances their sense of effectiveness and efficiency. Women with a sense of effectiveness gain more self-confidence and participate more in social activities. This participation includes voluntary collaboration in local projects, involvement in local or city council elections, willingness to run for city council elections, and membership in groups and associations.

Social action is one of the main axes of theory and research in the social sciences. Actors

attribute meanings to their behaviors, and these meanings influence their actions. Max Weber divides social action into four groups based on the motives and specific goals of the actors. The characteristics of diverse societies in different periods result in various forms of action (Rastegar Khalid, 2012).

Today, components and manifestations of social action derived from social media are based on the function of social mobilization, which is perceived as one of the important functions of mass media. Due to the close relationship with the nature of social media, it surpasses the importance of other social media functions (Khianiki & Basirian Jahromi, 2013).

Therefore, domestic violence is a form of violence that occurs within the home environment and is perpetrated by close family members, including spouses, fathers, brothers, and even children. Various factors contribute to the occurrence of domestic violence against women. One such factor that increases domestic violence is legal factors, including ambiguities and deficiencies in laws such as the right to divorce, inequality in the amount of blood money (diyah<sup>1</sup>), homicide, and custody of children, as well as the unequal credibility of testimony between men and women. In Islamic societies and governments, these legal factors contribute to the creation of a misguided mentality among the public.

On the other hand, social factors also play a significant role in the increase of domestic violence. As we know, the family is one of the most important and stable social institutions responsible for nurturing children and future generations, reflecting the entire functioning and behaviors of individuals. Proper upbringing of children can contribute to a healthier society. Children who witness and learn violence can become aggressive individuals. Parents should not differentiate between their children based on gender, as this approach can lead to the early formation of patriarchal attitudes, reinforcing the notion of male superiority, which in turn contributes to various forms of violence.

The way girls and boys are treated should not differ; in some families, there is not much reaction to the wrongdoings of boys, and it is dealt with in a way that justifies the male's right because of his gender. Conversely, if a mistake is made by a daughter, it is met with severe punishment and reprimand. Therefore, by understanding and treating children equally, creating a joyful and peaceful environment in the family, respecting the rights of both parties, avoiding gender-based differences, not giving absolute authority to male children, respecting each other, and so on, we can witness a healthy family.

If job opportunities and power are distributed equally and fairly between women and men, both genders will contribute to the social acceptance of women in society by men.

This article aims to examine the impact of social interactions and responsibility on domestic violence against women in the Panj Tan region of Mashhad through the lens of prevailing relationships in families. The main objective is to assess the prevalence of domestic violence against women in families in the Panj Tan region of Mashhad and investigate the relationship between social interaction and its components (i.e., political participation, scientific engagement, social capital, and social media) and responsibility with its components (feeling of competence, sense of effectiveness, responsible action, and sense of duty) and domestic violence.

## 2. Theoretical Foundations

### 2.1. Domestic Violence

The family is the first and most stable social institution where individual identity and societal acceptance are formed, and the acceptance of social values and norms has led to the transfer of relationship patterns and interactions to other social institutions (Khani et al., 2010). The function of the family is not only to provide for the physical, material, and psychological needs and create a warm and intimate space for its members, but it can also have destructive functions such as violence (Shadmani, 2017). Violence against women occurs in both private and public spheres, threatening the health and security of the family. Women are the educators of healthy individuals, so neglecting women's health and perpetrating domestic

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<sup>1</sup> "Diyeh" or blood money is an Islamic law, and according to jurisprudential definitions, it refers to the compensation, usually in the form of money or property, paid to someone who has suffered injury or the heirs of a person killed due to intentional harm or manslaughter. In legal terms, "Diyeh" is the monetary penalty collected from the perpetrator for the benefit of the victim or their legal representatives, and the amount is determined by the Shari'a court for the committed crime.

violence against them can lead to various mental and even physical illnesses (Khani et al., 2010). Physical harm to women can have numerous consequences, including disruptions in the role of women as mothers and wives, psychological and mental consequences such as boredom and depression, neglect of children, and more. This can pose a threat to the health of family members and, consequently, society, to the extent that no society can claim to be healthy if it lacks healthy families (Shadmani, 2017).

In general, instances of domestic violence vary from one society to another and from one cultural context to another. If we categorize domestic violence broadly, it can be classified into physical violence against an individual and violence against the spiritual integrity of an individual. Therefore, if we categorize violence based on its negative consequences and effects, we can classify it into four categories: economic (financial) violence, psychological (emotional) violence, physical violence, and sexual violence (Nik Sokhan Shirazi, 2009).

Financial or economic violence is a type of violent behavior perpetrated by a man against a woman (Sohrabzadeh & Mansourian Ravandi, 2017) and can manifest in various forms, such as strict control over household expenses, preventing work or occupation, seizing a woman's bank account or credit card, and opposing and obstructing a woman's employment, especially if it goes against family norms (Roshanfar, 2003). Examples of economic violence include forcing a spouse, selling her belongings and assets, not providing financial support for the cost of living, and more (Sohrabzadeh & Mansourian Ravandi, 2018).

One of the most common forms of violence against individuals within the family and even outside the family framework is physical violence (Nik Sokhan Shirazi, 2009), which can take various forms such as beating, torture, and murder or even begin with touching a woman's body and escalate to sexual and physical harassment. In general, physical violence is a physical act intended to harm the body or frighten and control a spouse.

Violence of this kind is not only about physical harm but can also cause spiritual and emotional damage. It may have profound psychological and emotional effects, such as fear, depression, feelings of emptiness and humiliation, low self-esteem, and more (Najafi Abrandabadi, 2003). Physical violence, in general, has a wide range and starts with blows and injuries and extends to severe cases of imprisonment, burning, torture, and murder (Nik Sokhan Shirazi, 2009). Psychological violence is a type of misconduct that is not necessarily physical, manifesting more in repeated criticisms, insults, humiliation, threatening to remarry or divorce, and is often committed by men against women. Sexual abuse (sexual violence) is usually committed by men against women and sometimes, by women against men, in the form of neglect, sexual indifference, and even sexual harassment (Zandi, 2005).

## 2.2. *Social Activism*

The roots of global activism can be traced back to traditional forms of protest and social movements (Diaz Romero, 2015). The concept of activism, from Castells' perspective, encompasses a wide range of issues related to actions taken by individuals, group activists, organizations, institutions, and networks. Activism refers to various activities in political, economic, social, environmental, and other domains aimed at bringing about change in these systems (Khianiki & Basirian Jahromi, 2013).

One of the most prominent forms of activism in society is participation. Participation, a widely recognized phenomenon today, is considered a new phenomenon in the life of human societies. In this context, participation involves voluntary, conscious, and comprehensive involvement in all social, cultural, political, and economic dimensions, each somehow influencing their lives in relation to decision-making processes in these matters (Ranjbarian, 2011). Therefore, in developing societies, the necessary infrastructure and conditions for women's participation must be provided, and at the same time, beliefs and values that facilitate or hinder the serious presence and interaction of women in economic, social, and political arenas in society must be identified. The promotion of women's education enhances their sense of effectiveness and efficiency. Women with a sense of empowerment gain more self-confidence. They also participate more in social activities. This participation includes dimensions such as voluntary collaboration in local projects, participation in local or city council elections, willingness to run for city council elections, and membership in groups and associations. One of the most important dimensions of social activism is the social capital existing in society. Various definitions of social capital have been presented based on recognizing common goals, consolidating them, and fostering trust and readiness to move towards those goals (Raisdana, 2013).

### 2.3. Responsibility

Responsibility refers to the extent of women's sense of responsibility in their lives, especially in caring for individuals under their supervision. In other words, responsibility involves matters such as attention to upbringing, the destiny and future of their children, ensuring the financial needs of their children, filling the leisure time of their children, and paying attention to the mental and ethical health of their children. The more the woman feels responsible in these areas, undoubtedly, she is responsible (Babae-Fard, 2013). Responsibility means being responsive to one's own and others' needs and performing individual and social tasks to the best of one's ability (Timouri & Mirzavandi, 2020).

According to the interactionist theory, if individuals engage in social interactions, they will be able to distance themselves from situations of anxiety and stress. They play a significant role in organizing life, leading to an increase in individuals' self-confidence. Through these interactions, women can engage in cultural activities in addition to economic activities, enriching themselves mentally and avoiding feelings of exclusion (Giddens, 2008).

## 3. Literature Review

Numerous studies have been conducted on the subject of domestic violence in various countries, and the most important ones will be summarized as follows.

In a study conducted by Abbaszadeh et al. (2010) in the field of domestic violence, specifically the threat to the psychological health of married women in Tabriz, the results indicate that factors such as paternal dominance, the presence of violence in the husband's family, and interference by the husband's relatives have a statistically significant linear relationship with domestic violence and the psychological health of women at a meaningful level of 0.01.

Pourafkari et al. (2013) focused on examining the influential factors on psychological violence against men. Their research revealed that education and social support have a negative relationship with the level of domestic violence. Additionally, the exercise of power in the family, male authoritarian attitudes, and gender beliefs have a positive relationship with the impact of domestic violence against women.

Saifzadeh and Ghanbari Barzian (2013) conducted research on the role of violence in the divorce rate among women. They claim that physical, psychological, sexual, and economic violence significantly affects the increased demand for divorce by women.

Results from the research conducted in the United States and focusing on newlywed couples reported an 8% prevalence of physical domestic violence against women. Factors such as the young age of women, a history of violence, and non-formal marriages were identified as risk factors for violence (O'Leary et al., 2014).

The findings of the study by Sen and Bolsoy (2017) in Turkey indicated a 30% prevalence of domestic violence. This study also showed that variables such as age, education, employment, social support, migration status, living environment, duration of marriage, age of women at marriage, employment status, education of men, and polygamy have a significant relationship with violence against women (Sen & Bolsoy, 2017).

So far, no independent work has been done on this topic. Despite the valuable content related to this issue, there has been no specific research on the examination of women's responsiveness and responsibility in preventing violence against women. Most studies have focused on the impact of paternal interference on women, the effect of violence on divorce rates, and various types of violence, as well as an investigation of social factors influencing violence against women. However, this research is distinct from the aforementioned studies in three respects. Firstly, it is conducted in a different geographical area, specifically examining the fifth district of Mashhad. This region is considered almost on the outskirts of the city, providing a better opportunity to investigate various forms of violence (both hidden and overt). Secondly, this research aims to explore the social responsiveness and responsibility of women to examine their impact on preventing violence. Thirdly, the research conducted so far has not focused on the topic of social responsiveness and responsibility, which will be the central focus of this study. This suggests that the article addresses the following research questions:

- 1) Does women's accountability contribute to the prevention of domestic violence?
- 2) Does women's social activism contribute to the prevention of domestic violence?

## 4. Research Methodology

This research is of a quantitative nature, with an applied objective and a descriptive-correlational design in terms of data collection. The data collection technique used is a researcher-constructed questionnaire. The questionnaire consists of several sections, totaling 64 items with a Likert scale of five levels.

The population of this study includes married women in the Panj Tan region of Mashhad city. According to the Iran Statistical Center, the population of the Panj Tan region was 279,000 in the year 1399, comprising 76,600 households. The sample size of this research is approximately 384 households, calculated using Cochran's formula. The sample was randomly selected in January 2023 using a random sampling method. The research tool is a researcher-constructed questionnaire with confirmed validity and reliability. After collecting data in the standardized questionnaire format, the data were analyzed using SPSS software.

## 5. Findings

### 5.1. Distribution of Frequencies for Variables and Research Indices

Table 1 presents the distribution of demographic variables in the population. The results indicate that 58.9% of individuals fall within the age group of 20 to 40. In terms of educational attainment, 54.9% of females and 65.6% of males have primary education. Furthermore, 75.3% of females are homemakers, while 45.3% of males are employed as laborers. Additionally, 57% of the sample population resides in a personal residence.

**Table 1.** Distribution of Frequencies of Demographic Variables

		Frequency	percent
Age group	Less than 20 years	17	4.4
	20-40	226	58.9
	41-60	132	34.4
	More than 60 years	9	2.3
The educational level of woman	Primary school	211	54.9
	Middle school	103	26.8
	High school diploma	44	11.5
	Bachelor	18	4.7
	Master and Ph.D.	8	2.1
The educational level of man	Primary school	252	65.6
	Middle school	64	16.7
	High school diploma	40	10.4
	Bachelor	24	6.3
	Master and Ph.D.	4	1.0
Woman's occupation	Housewife	289	75.3
	employed	95	24.7
Man's occupation	Daily Worker	174	45.3
	Employee	30	7.8
	Free worker	160	41.7
	Unemployed	20	5.2
Housing	Personal house	219	57.0
	Rental house	165	43.0
The method of marriage	Voluntary	224	58.3





	Involuntary	160	41.7
Life situation	Divorced	33	8.6
	Live with husband	351	91.4
The number of marriages for women	Once	358	93.2
	Twice	19	4.9
	Three times or more	7	1.8
The number of marriages for men	Once	297	77.3
	Twice	71	18.5
	Three times or more	16	4.2
The numbers of children	No have child	22	5.7
	One	58	15.1
	two	82	21.4
	Three or more	222	57.8
Monthly income	Less than 3,000,000 Tomans (less than 77\$)	125	32.6
	3,000,000 to 5,000,000 Tomans (77-129\$)	151	39.3
	5,000,000 to 10,000,000 Tomans (129-257\$)	91	23.7
	More than 10,000,000 Tomans ( more than 257%)	17	4.4
	Total	384	100.0

Table 2 presents descriptive statistics for the questionnaire items, including the minimum, maximum, mean, standard deviation, and the 25th, 50th (median), and 75th percentiles of the responses.

**Table 2.** Descriptive Statistics of Questionnaire Items

	Numbers of participant	Mean	Std. deviation	Minimum	Maximum	Percentiles		
						25th	50th	75th
Bank card	384	2.92	1.38	1.00	5.00	2.00	2.00	4.00
Imposing financial constraints	384	2.88	1.42	1.00	5.00	2.00	2.00	4.00
Restrictions on food and clothing	384	2.95	1.39	1.00	5.00	2.00	3.00	4.00
Hindrance to work	384	2.80	1.38	1.00	5.00	2.00	2.00	4.00
Forced economic activity	384	2.71	1.36	1.00	5.00	2.00	2.00	4.00
Threat with a cold weapon	384	2.32	1.33	1.00	5.00	1.00	2.00	4.00
Attempt to suffocate	384	2.91	1.42	1.00	5.00	2.00	3.00	4.00
Throwing	384	3.50	1.27	1.00	5.00	2.00	4.00	4.00
Punching and kicking	384	3.32	1.31	1.00	5.00	2.00	4.00	4.00
Harassment and abuse	384	3.17	1.30	1.00	5.00	2.00	4.00	4.00
Forced to view explicit photos and videos	384	2.60	1.33	1.00	5.00	2.00	2.00	4.00



Forced sexual relations	384	2.99	1.30	1.00	5.00	2.00	4.00	4.00
Sexual harassment	384	2.70	1.34	1.00	5.00	2.00	2.00	4.00
Ethical corruption	384	2.21	1.29	1.00	5.00	1.00	2.00	3.75
Forced to have marital relations during menstruation	384	3.07	1.32	1.00	5.00	2.00	4.00	4.00
Excuses and criticism	384	3.43	1.29	1.00	5.00	2.00	4.00	4.00
Sarcastic and biting expression	384	3.58	1.22	1.00	5.00	2.00	4.00	4.00
Disrespect	384	3.23	1.33	1.00	5.00	2.00	4.00	4.00
Deprived of seeing my child	384	2.76	1.33	1.00	5.00	2.00	2.00	4.00
Having children of the same gender	384	2.96	1.31	1.00	5.00	2.00	2.00	4.00
Cursing and swearing	384	3.28	1.32	1.00	5.00	2.00	4.00	4.00
Using vulgar language among people	384	3.39	1.30	1.00	5.00	2.00	4.00	4.00
Crying out and yelling	384	3.47	1.29	1.00	5.00	2.00	4.00	4.00
Addressing as weak	384	3.40	1.28	1.00	5.00	2.00	4.00	4.00
Insults and slander	384	3.29	1.24	1.00	5.00	2.00	4.00	4.00
Presence in the virtual space	384	3.54	2.18	1.00	30.00	3.00	3.00	4.00
Women's participation in networks	384	3.51	0.98	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Involvement in political parties	384	3.67	0.86	2.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Political awareness in society	384	3.71	0.88	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Nomination in elections	384	3.85	0.83	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Going to university	384	3.99	0.77	2.00	5.00	4.00	4.00	5.00
Women's awareness of their rights	384	4.02	0.81	1.00	5.00	4.00	4.00	5.00
Having the right to teach	384	4.03	0.77	1.00	5.00	4.00	4.00	5.00
Serving the country with knowledge and expertise	384	3.88	0.80	2.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Bright future for our children	384	3.91	0.81	2.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Social capital	384	3.76	0.82	2.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Societal progress	384	3.75	0.80	2.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Empowering women	384	3.75	0.79	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
With self-confidence in society	384	3.79	0.81	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
With ideas and initiative	384	3.83	0.81	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Media's impact on awareness	384	3.90	0.83	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Consolidating women's position	384	3.89	0.82	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Media's impact on being a homemaker and housewife	384	3.77	0.99	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Gender equality in the media	384	3.91	0.94	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	5.00
Equal capabilities of women and men	384	3.98	0.84	1.00	5.00	4.00	4.00	5.00
Mother's duties	384	4.01	0.84	1.00	5.00	4.00	4.00	5.00



Spousal duties	384	3.82	1.00	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Job responsibilities	384	3.47	1.08	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Raising awareness among other women	384	3.33	1.12	1.00	5.00	2.00	3.00	4.00
My responsibilities towards society	384	3.36	1.11	1.00	5.00	3.00	3.00	4.00
Promoting women's rights	384	3.46	1.06	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Active social activist	384	3.54	1.03	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
University, more successful children	384	3.77	0.91	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Education, a healthy life	384	3.84	0.89	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Effective education in society	384	3.89	0.82	1.00	5.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Being a good spouse	384	3.90	0.81	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Being a good mother	384	3.93	0.80	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
The duty of activism	384	3.99	0.81	1.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	5.00
Playing a role in society	384	4.00	0.81	1.00	5.00	4.00	4.00	5.00
Obstacles to women's employment opportunities	384	4.11	0.77	1.00	5.00	4.00	4.00	5.00
Raising my children	384	4.20	0.72	1.00	5.00	4.00	4.00	5.00
Marriage of my children	384	4.23	0.72	1.00	5.00	4.00	4.00	5.00
Assistance in difficult circumstances	384	4.29	0.65	1.00	5.00	4.00	4.00	5.00
Love for children and spouse	384	4.30	0.64	1.00	5.00	4.00	4.00	5.00

Table 3 presents descriptive statistics for the independent variables extracted from the questionnaire, including minimum, maximum, mean, and standard deviation. The results indicate that among the independent variables, the responsibility variable has the highest mean (3.86), while domestic violence has the lowest mean (3.03). Considering the standard deviation values, it can be observed that the responsibility variable has the lowest dispersion (0.55), and the domestic violence variable has the highest dispersion (0.87). The median of the coping variable is 3.85 and represents the highest value.

**Table 3.** Descriptive Statistics of Research Variables

	Numbers of participant	Mean	Std. deviation	Mini mum	Maxi mum	Percentiles		
						25th	50th	75th
Domestic violence	384	3.03	0.87	1.00	5.00	2.40	3.12	3.68
Social activism	384	3.82	0.60	2.10	5.00	3.40	3.85	4.15
Responsibility	384	3.86	0.55	1.16	5.00	3.58	3.79	4.05

The correlation analysis utilized the average scores of the questions to calculate the grades for variables (indicators). According to the Central Limit Theorem, the averages of variables for a large sample size (more than 30) have a normal distribution. Therefore, parametric methods are used for statistical inference. Table 4 reports the Pearson correlation coefficients to examine the relationships between the research variables. Significant correlation coefficients at the 1% level or denoted by \*\* are indicated. A positive coefficient implies a direct relationship, while a negative coefficient signifies an inverse relationship between two variables. The results of this table indicate that the variable of domestic violence has a significant inverse relationship with the variables of social responsiveness (-0.292) and accountability (-0.263).





**Table 4.** Pearson Correlation Coefficients between Research Variables.

	Domestic violence	Social activism	Responsibility
Domestic violence	1		
Social activism	-.292**	1	
Responsibility	-.263**	.624**	1

5.2. Regression Analysis

To investigate the effects of independent variables, responsibility and responsiveness, on the dependent variable, domestic violence, we employ a stepwise multiple linear regression model. Table 5 provides a summary of information related to this regression model.

**Table 5.** Summary of Regression Model Information

Model	Correlation Coefficient	Coefficient of Determination	Adjusted R-squared	Standard Error of the Model	Fisher's Statistic	Significance Level
1	0.292	0.085	0.083	0.830	35.553	<0.001
2	0.310	0.096	0.091	0.826	20.191	<0.001

The research follows a step-by-step approach based on variable values, consisting of two stages. In the first stage, the independent variable of social aggression is entered into the model, and in the second stage, the independent variable of responsibility is introduced. The model in the second stage exhibits greater predictive power compared to the first stage, and for result interpretation, attention should be given to the outcomes of the second stage. In each stage, with the entry of a new independent variable, the coefficient of determination increases, such that the model in the second stage has a determination coefficient of 0.096. Given this value, it can be inferred that with the presence of responsibility and social aggression independent variables, 9.6% of the variance in the dependent variable of domestic violence can be effectively predicted. The significance level of the regression model test for the second stage is less than 0.05 (Type I error level), indicating that the multiple linear regression model in the second stage is significant. In other words, using the independent variables in the second stage, the model can predict the dependent variable of domestic violence.

Table 6 reports the estimated coefficients of the model in standard and non-standard conditions, as well as their significance.

**Table 6.** Model Coefficient Estimates and Significance Testing

Stage	Variables	Non-standardized coefficients		Standardized Coefficients (Beta)	T-statistic	Significance Level	Variance of Inflation Factor (VIF)
		Coefficient Value	Standard Error				
1	Constant Term	4.651	0.275		16.926	0.000	
	Social activism	-0.424	0.071	-0.292	-5.963	0.000	1.000
2	Constant Term	5.005	0.320		15.623	0.000	
	Social activism	-0.304	0.091	-0.209	-3.354	0.001	1.639
	Responsibility	-0.210	0.099	-0.132	-2.122	0.034	1.639

The results of the second-stage model are as follows: A significant level of meaning (P-Value < 0.05) has been observed for the independent variables of social reactivity and responsibility, indicating that these two variables have a significant impact on the dependent variable of domestic violence. The negative coefficients for social reactivity and domestic violence suggest a negative (inverse) effect of these variables on domestic violence. Considering that the absolute value of the standard coefficient for the social reactivity variable

(0.209) is greater than that of the responsibility variable (0.132), it can be inferred that the social reactivity variable has a greater impact on domestic violence.

If the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) value exceeds 10, it indicates multicollinearity or, in other words, a correlation between independent variables in the model, and variables with multicollinearity should be removed. Table 6 results show that there is no multicollinearity among the independent variables in the second-stage model.

To assess the validity of the regression model, three assumptions need to be examined for the residuals:

1. Independence of residuals (autonomous residuals)
2. Homogeneity of residual variances
3. Normality of residuals

To investigate these assumptions, the Durbin-Watson statistic, scatter plots of standardized residuals against standardized predicted values, and Probability-Probability (P-P) plots are used. If the Durbin-Watson statistic falls within the range of 1.5 to 2.5, it indicates no autocorrelation among the residuals. If the scatter plot of residuals against predicted values does not exhibit a specific trend, assumption 2 is confirmed. The normality of residuals is checked using the P-P plot, and if the points on the plot are close to the half-line in the first and third quadrants, assumption 3 is satisfied.

The Durbin-Watson statistic for this research model is 1.521, confirming assumption 1. Considering figures 1 and 2, it can be concluded that assumptions 2 and 3 are also valid. Therefore, the obtained model is deemed sufficiently valid for prediction purposes.

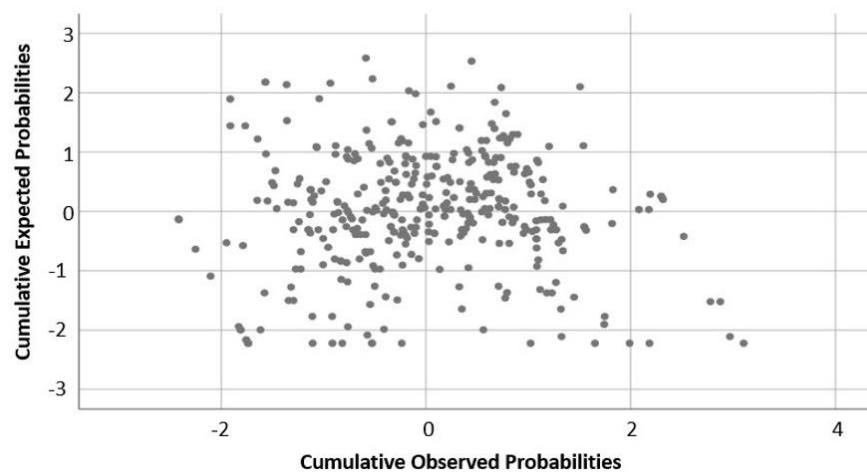


Figure 1. Standardized Model Predicted Values vs. Standardized Model Residual Values

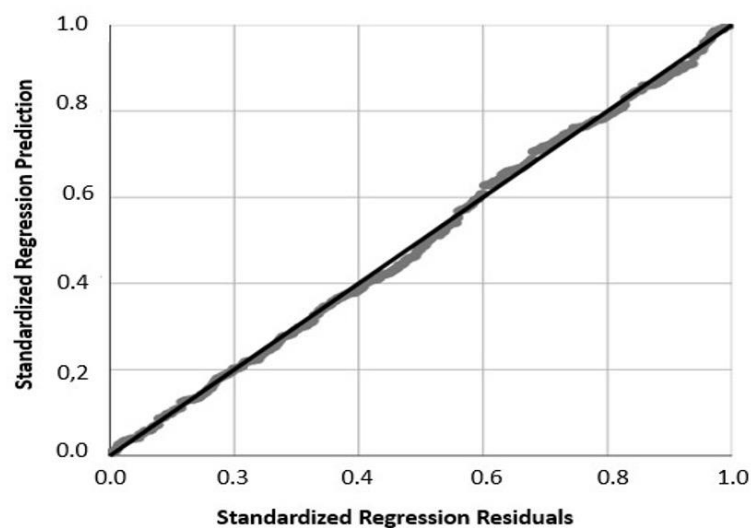


Figure 2. Residual P-P Plot for Assessing Normality of Model Residuals



In this section, the means of variables are compared across different levels of demographic variables, including age, education of females and males, occupation of females and males, housing status, marital method, living conditions, number of marriages for females and males, number of children, and monthly income. If the sample size at levels of demographic variables is greater than 30, parametric tests will be used for comparison based on the Central Limit Theorem. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S) test will be employed to assess normality. If the distributions of variables are normal across all levels of demographic variables, independent t-tests (for comparing two groups) and analysis of variance (ANOVA) (for comparing more than two groups) will be used; otherwise, non-parametric tests equivalent to them, namely Mann-Whitney U test (for comparing two groups) and Kruskal-Wallis test (for comparing more than two groups) will be applied. The results of these tests will be reported separately for each demographic variable in the tables below. The assumption of homogeneity of variances will be examined and confirmed using Levene's test.

Table 7 presents results indicating a significant difference in the mean of the social responsiveness variable at the 5% level of significance across age groups (years) (p-value < 0.05). In other words, age groups have a significant impact on the social responsiveness variable. Duncan's post hoc test results for pairwise comparisons of the means of the social responsiveness variable among different age groups revealed that the mean social responsiveness of individuals under 20 years (4.176) is significantly higher than that of individuals over 60 years (3.183).

**Table 7.** Examination of the Age Group (Years) Impact on Research Variables

Variable	Age group	Numbers of participant	Mean	Std. division	Statistical Test	Test Statistic	P- Value	Result
Domestic violence	Less than 20 years	17	3.407	1.071	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	1.483	0.219	Non- significant
	20-40	226	3.034	0.866				
	41-60	132	2.968	0.838				
	More than 60 years	9	3.24	0.818				
Social activism	Less than 20 years	17	4.176	0.616	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	7.262	<0.001	Significant
	20-40	226	3.872	0.571				
	41-60	132	3.734	0.597				
	More than 60 years	9	3.183	0.607				
Responsibility	Less than 20 years	17	4.124	0.984	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	2.556	0.055	Non- significant
	20-40	226	3.878	0.514				
	41-60	132	3.831	0.53				
	More than 60 years	9	3.544	0.158				

Table 8 shows that at a 5% error level, there is a significant difference in the mean of three variables: domestic violence, social responsiveness, and responsibility at different educational levels of women (p-value < 0.05). In other words, the educational level of women has a significant impact on all three variables. It can also be observed that with an increase in women's educational levels, the mean of domestic violence decreases, while social responsiveness and responsibility increase.



**Table 8.** Examining the Impact of Women’s Educational Level on Research Variables

Variable	The educational level of women	Numbers of participant	Mean	Std. division	Statistical Test	Test Statistic	P-Value	Result
Domestic violence	Primary school	211	3.293	0.821	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	33.912	<0.001	Significant
	Middle school	103	2.955	0.748				
	High school diploma	44	2.709	0.673				
	Bachelor and higher	26	1.772	0.600				
Social activism	Primary school	211	3.635	0.613	Kruskal Wallis analysis	64.182	<0.001	Significant
	Middle school	103	3.961	0.464				
	High school diploma	44	4.030	0.439				
	Bachelor and higher	26	4.437	0.499				
Responsibility	Primary school	211	3.790	0.562	Kruskal Wallis analysis	26.699	<0.001	Significant
	Middle school	103	3.851	0.471				
	High school diploma	44	3.934	0.457				
	Bachelor and higher	26	4.409	0.533				

Table 9 shows that at a five percent error level, there is a significant difference in the average of all three variables: domestic violence, social responsiveness, and responsibility, across different educational levels of men (p-value < 0.05). In other words, the educational level of men has a significant impact on all three variables. It can also be observed that with an increase in the educational level of men, the average domestic violence decreases, while social responsiveness and responsibility increase.

**Table 9.** Examination of the Impact of Men’s Educational Level on Research Variables

Variable	The educational level of men	Numbers of participant	Mean	Std. division	Statistical Test	Test Statistic	P-Value	Result
Domestic violence	Primary school	252	3.269	0.812	Kruskal Wallis analysis	73.416	<0.001	Significant
	Middle school	64	2.831	0.624				
	High school diploma	40	2.703	0.691				
	Bachelor and higher	28	1.834	0.819				
Social activism	Primary school	252	3.684	0.598	Kruskal Wallis	49.322	<0.001	Significant
	Middle school	64	4.031	0.445				



	High school diploma	40	3.965	0.528	analysis		
	Bachelor and higher	28	4.379	0.482			
Responsibility	Primary school	252	3.771	0.507	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	13.060	<0.001
	Middle school	64	3.912	0.516			
	High school diploma	40	4.025	0.614			
	Bachelor and higher	28	4.374	0.526			

Table 10 shows that at a five percent error level, there is a significant difference in the average of all three variables: domestic violence, social reactivity, and responsibility, at different levels of the job variable for women (p-value<0.05). In other words, a woman's occupation has a significant impact on all three variables. It can also be observed that employed women experience lower domestic violence and exhibit higher levels of social reactivity and responsibility.

**Table 10.** Examining the Impact of Women’s Occupation on Research Variables

Variable	Woman’s occupation	Numbers of participant	Mean	Std. division	Statistical Test	Test Statistic	P-Value	Result
Domestic violence	Housewife	289	3.156	0.829	Independent T-test	5.030	<0.001	Significant
	Employed	95	2.656	0.875				
Social activism	Housewife	289	3.765	0.579	Independent T-test	-3.294	<0.001	Significant
	Employed	95	3.995	0.621				
Responsibility	Housewife	289	3.808	0.517	Independent T-test	-3.340	<0.001	Significant
	Employed	95	4.037	0.597				

Table 11 shows that at a five percent level of error, there is a significant difference in the average of all three variables: domestic violence, social responsiveness, and responsibility, at various levels of the job variable for men (p-value < 0.05). In other words, the job of men has a significant impact on all three variables. It can also be observed that male employees experience the least domestic violence and exhibit the highest levels of social responsiveness and responsibility.

**Table 11.** Examining the Impact of Men’s Occupation on Research Variables

Variable	Man’s occupation	Numbers of participant	Mean	Std. division	Statistical Test	Test Statistic	P-Value	Result
Domestic violence	Daily Worker	174	3.279	0.882	Kruskal Wallis analysis	41.430	<0.001	Significant
	Employee	30	2.244	0.991				
	Free worker	160	2.881	0.700				
	Unemployed	20	3.286	0.812				
Social activism	Daily Worker	174	3.799	0.660	Analysis of	5.385	<0.001	Significant



	Employee	30	4.232	0.565	Variance		
	Free worker	160	3.783	0.522	(ANOVA)		
	Unemployed	20	3.725	0.399			
Responsibility	Daily Worker	174	3.889	0.567	Analysis of		Significant
	Employee	30	4.218	0.633	Variance	13.060	<0.001
	Free worker	160	3.799	0.492	(ANOVA)		
	Unemployed	20	3.653	0.392			

Table 12 shows that at a 5% error level, there is a significant difference in the average of the domestic violence variable across different levels of housing status (p-value < 0.05). In other words, housing status has a significant impact on the domestic violence variable. It can also be observed that individuals with personal homes experience less domestic violence compared to those with rented homes.

**Table 12.** Examining the Effect of Housing Status on Research Variables

Variable	Housing situation	Numbers of participant	Mean	Std. division	Statistical Test	Test Statistic	P-Value	Result
Domestic violence	Personal house	219	2.866	0.827	Independent T-test	-4.427	<0.001	Significant
	Rental house	165	3.253	0.871				
Social activism	Personal house	219	3.818	0.566	Independent T-test	-0.154	0.878	Non-significant
	Rental house	165	3.827	0.638				
Responsibility	Personal house	219	3.840	0.530	Independent T-test	-1.015	0.311	Non-significant
	Rental house	165	3.897	0.566				

Table 13 shows that at a five percent level of error, there is a significant difference in the mean of all three variables: domestic violence, assertiveness, and responsibility, across different levels of the marriage variable (p-value < 0.05). In other words, the method of marriage has a statistically significant impact on the variables of domestic violence, assertiveness, and responsibility. Additionally, it can be observed that individuals with intentional marriage have lower domestic violence and higher assertiveness and responsibility compared to individuals with non-intentional marriage.

**Table 13.** Examination of the Impact of Marriage Method on Research Variables

Variable	Methods of marriage	Numbers of participant	Mean	Std. division	Statistical Test	Test Statistic	P-Value	Result
Domestic violence	Voluntary	224	2.803	0.846	Independent T-test	-6.460	<0.001	Significant
	Involuntary	160	3.354	0.793				





Social activism	Voluntary	224	3.936	0.581	Independent	4.532	<0.001	Significant
	Involuntary	160	3.663	0.584	T-test			
Responsibility	Voluntary	224	3.934	0.570	Independent	3.031	0.003	Significant
	Involuntary	160	3.768	0.496	T-test			

Table 14 shows that at a 5% error level, there is a significant difference in the average of the responsibility variable at different levels of the lifestyle variable (p-value < 0.05). In other words, lifestyle has a significant impact on the responsibility variable. It can also be observed that divorced individuals have less responsibility compared to those who are currently living together.

**Table 14.** Investigating the Impact of Lifestyle on Research Variables

Variable	Life situation	Numbers of participant	Mean	Std. division	Statistical Test	Test Statistic	P-Value	Result
Domestic violence	Divorced	33	3.234	0.721	Independent	1.400	0.162	Non-Significant
	Live with husband	351	3.013	0.878	T-test			
Social activism	Divorced	33	3.682	0.552	Independent	-1.411	0.159	Non-Significant
	Live with husband	351	3.835	0.600	T-test			
Responsibility	Divorced	33	3.740	0.303	Independent	-2.249	0.029	Significant
	Live with husband	351	3.876	0.562	T-test			

Table 15 shows that at a five percent level of significance, there is a significant difference in the means of variables related to assertiveness and responsibility at various levels of the variable “number of marriages” (p-value < 0.05). In other words, the number of marriages has a significant impact on assertiveness and responsibility variables. It can also be observed that individuals who have been married twice exhibit lower levels of assertiveness and responsibility compared to other individuals.

**Table 15.** Examining the impact of the number of marriages on research variables

Variable	The number of marriages for women	Numbers of participant	Mean	Std. division	Statistical Test	Test Statistic	P-Value	Result
Domestic violence	Once	358	3.038	0.869	Kruskal	0.811	0.667	Non-Significant
	Twice	19	2.975	0.848	Wallis analysis			
	Three times and more	7	2.880	0.887				
Social activism	Once	358	3.837	0.590	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	4.487	0.012	Significant
	Twice	19	3.450	0.662				
	Three times and more	7	4.071	0.465				



Responsibility	Once	358	3.882	0.543	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	3.652	0.027	Significant
	Twice	19	3.537	0.522				
	Three times	7	3.857	0.528				
	and more							

Table 16 shows that at a five percent error level, there is a significant difference in the average of the three variables of domestic violence, aggression, and responsibility at different levels of the variable “number of marriages” (p-value < 0.05). In other words, the number of marriages has a statistically significant impact on the variables of domestic violence, aggression, and responsibility. Additionally, it can be observed that men who have been married once exhibit lower levels of domestic violence and higher levels of aggression and responsibility compared to other individuals.

**Table 16.** Examining the Impact of the Number of Marriages on Research Variables

Variable	The number of marriages for men	Numbers of participant	Mean	Std. division	Statistical Test	Test Statistic	P-Value	Result
Domestic violence	Once	297	2.932	0.872	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	9.135	<0.001	Significant
	Twice	71	3.368	0.779				
	Three times	16	3.400	0.697				
	and more							
Social activism	Once	297	3.865	0.597	Kruskal Wallis analysis	9.485	0.009	Significant
	Twice	71	3.737	0.563				
	Three times	16	3.394	0.567				
	and more							
Responsibility	Once	297	3.897	0.573	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	3.103	0.046	Significant
	Twice	71	3.787	0.441				
	Three times	16	3.605	0.298				
	and more							

Table 17 shows that at a five percent error level, there is a significant difference in the means of the three variables of domestic violence, assertiveness, and responsibility at various levels of the variable “number of children” (p-value < 0.05). In other words, the number of children has a significant impact on the variables of domestic violence, assertiveness, and responsibility. It can also be observed that individuals without children exhibit lower levels of domestic violence and higher levels of assertiveness and responsibility compared to other individuals.

**Table 17.** Examining the Impact of the Number of Children on Research Variables

Variable	Numbers of children	Numbers of participant	Mean	Std. division	Statistical Test	Test Statistic	P-Value	Result
Domestic violence	No have child	22	2.402	0.793	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	9.671	<0.001	Significant
	One	58	2.683	0.906				
	two	82	3.061	0.821				



	Three or more	222	3.175	0.831				
Social activism	No have child	22	4.089	0.601	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	6.404	<0.001	Significant
	One	58	3.980	0.612				
	two	82	3.930	0.541				
	Three or more	222	3.714	0.592				
Responsibility	No have child	22	4.165	0.555	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	4.999	0.002	Significant
	One	58	4.024	0.576				
	two	82	3.836	0.562				
	Three or more	222	3.804	0.516				

Table 18 shows that at a five percent level of significance, there is a significant difference in the average of the domestic violence variable across different levels of the income variable ( $p$ -value < 0.05). In other words, monthly income has a statistically significant effect on the domestic violence variable. Additionally, it can be observed that individuals with higher monthly incomes experience less domestic violence compared to others.

**Table 18.** Examining the Impact of Monthly Income on Research Variables

Variable	Monthly income	Numbers of participant	Mean	Std. division	Statistical Test	Test Statistic	P-Value	Result
Domestic violence	Less than 3,000,000 Tomans (less than 77\$)	125	3.413	0.849	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	21.637	<0.001	Significant
	3,000,000 to 5,000,000 Tomans (77-129\$)	151	3.023	0.772				
	5,000,000 to 10,000,000 Tomans (129-257\$)	91	2.690	0.834				
	More than 10,000,000 Tomans (more than 257%)	17	2.151	0.520				
Social activism	Less than 3,000,000 Tomans (less than 77\$)	125	3.792	0.621	Kruskal Wallis analysis	2.063	0.559	Non- Significant
	3,000,000 to 5,000,000 Tomans (77-129\$)	151	3.797	0.586				
	5,000,000 to 10,000,000 Tomans (129-257\$)	91	3.880	0.574				
	More than 10,000,000 Tomans (more than 257%)	17	3.950	0.653				
Responsibility	Less than 3,000,000 Tomans (less than 77\$)	125	3.898	0.585	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	2.060	0.105	Non- Significant
	3,000,000 to 5,000,000 Tomans (77-129\$)	151	3.839	0.452				
	5,000,000 to 10,000,000 Tomans (129-257\$)	91	3.810	0.600				
	More than 10,000,000 Tomans (more than 257%)	17	4.142	0.646				

## 6. Discussion

This research examines domestic violence against married women in five districts of Mashhad, exploring the correlation between social activism and responsibility in preventing domestic violence from a sociological and criminological perspective. Violence against women, both within the familial (domestic) and societal (public) dimensions, poses a serious concern and harm in both developed and developing societies, with variations influenced by cultural and indigenous factors. Throughout history, women worldwide have endured oppression and injustice due to a lack of proper recognition of their rights, often experiencing violence and suppression. Despite advancements in industrial societies and cultural growth influenced by the development of science and technology, domestic violence remains a persistent issue.

Domestic violence, a subset of violence against women, is characterized by higher recurrence rates and underreporting to the police, resulting in more severe social, psychological, and economic consequences. In most cases, it occurs at the hands of the closest family member, typically the spouse. The research results indicate that there is a relationship between domestic violence and social activism and accountability.

Based on standardized coefficients, the impact of social activism on domestic violence is greater than that of responsibility. Additionally, age group analysis reveals a meaningful influence on social activism, with individuals under 20 generally exhibiting higher levels of social activism. Detailed educational level analysis demonstrates that an increase in educational attainment corresponds to a decrease in domestic violence, coupled with an increase in social activism and responsibility. Moreover, occupational analysis suggests that employed women may experience lower levels of domestic violence while demonstrating higher levels of social activism and responsibility.

## 7. Conclusions

In conclusion, this research demonstrates that factors such as social activism, responsibility, age, education, occupation, and living conditions play crucial roles in preventing domestic violence. Increasing awareness within society regarding these relationships and promoting social actions and responsibility can contribute to reducing domestic violence and enhancing positive family relationships.

This research presents significant findings from statistical analyses on domestic violence, social activism, and responsibility. The results indicate an inverse and meaningful relationship between domestic violence and the variables of social activism and responsibility. In other words, an increase in social activism and responsibility leads to a reduction in the incidence of domestic violence.

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